



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

September 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your interest in the EcoLearn Program! The Environmental Protection Agency believes that school or a youth group is a great place to teach children why their choices are important to the community and the environment. To help answer the why, EPA is inviting your school or group to participate in a program called EcoLearn.

The EcoLearn program is environmental enrichment activities for students in preschool-5th grade. There are 9 age-friendly lessons for each grade (water, air, ecosystem, waste, animals, energy, climate change, marine debris, and food/agriculture). They all have fun and engaging activities for students that were developed based on state Common Core and Next Generation Science educational standards. One set of lessons, for example, is food and agriculture. In those lessons, our youngest learners talk about where food comes from and how it relates to our environment. Our older students consider food consumption, composting, and recycling. All students learn the environmental and social importance of reducing food waste. Teachers or youth group leaders may choose to do the enrichment activities on their own, or they can have a special guest visit their classroom or youth group for one hour each month to engage students on these topics. A student intern for the EPA is prepared to inspire excitement and learning in students as your guest speaker. The lessons and the student intern teaching them is free for participating classrooms or events.

Through the EcoLearn program students will not only increase their environmental knowledge, but they will be empowered to use their skills outside of the classroom. Small actions, like asking to compost food at home, will allow our students to have a noticeable impact on the community. Education makes a difference, and the EPA is ready to bring EcoLearn to your classroom or group.

If you're interested in EPA interns piloting the EcoLearn K-5 lessons at your school, in your classroom, with a scout troop or after school group, please contact me at the U.S. EPA Region 10 Environmental Education Coordinator in Seattle at hanft.sally@epa.gov or 206.553.1207. You may also discuss your interest with the intern that is interested in working in your school or with your group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Hanft".

Sally Hanft

EPA — Region 10 — Seattle Environmental Education Coordinator